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HEAVIER SETBACKS IN STORE FOR THE US DESPITE FRANTIC AND RECKLESS ACTIONS

(DRVN Foreign Ministry Statement)

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRVN issued on Nov. 26 a statement concerning intensified US war acts against the DRVN.

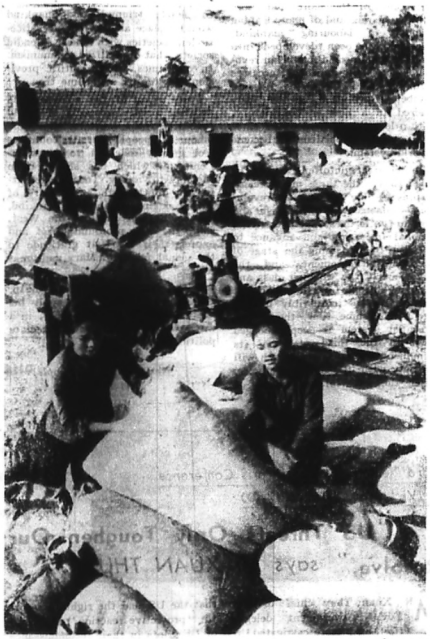
The statement stressed that for two years now, the Nixon administration has been gradually stepping up air espionage and bombing raids against the DRVN. In early May 1970, the US imperialists launched with over one hundred aircraft large-scale attacks for four consecutive days on over 40 densely populated areas in Nghe An, Quang Binh and Vinh Linh, dropping about 700 demolition bombs and tens of thousands of steel-pellet bombs and inflicting nearly 100 civilian casualties. To justify their criminal acts, they have spread the "understanding between the DRVN and the United States on US reconnaissance flights over North Viet Nam" fabrication and claimed that they "had only attacked anti-aircraft batteries to protect the lives of US pilots."

On November 21 and 22, 1970, over 200 US aircraft violated the air space of the DRVN, and struck at over 80 densely populated areas in Vinh Linh, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Haiphong, Son La, Vinh Phu, Ha Tay and the periphery of Hanoi. They caused many human and material losses to the local population and wounded a number of detained US pilots. In Quang Binh and Ha Tinh provinces alone, US aircraft attacked no less than 67 civilians. These were extremely serious US war acts against extensive areas of the DRVN. This time, the US administration added to its old allegations new ones in an attempt to justify the widening of the zone of fire: it announced that the strikes were directed not only "at missile sites and anti-aircraft emplacements" but also at "related installations," that the purpose was not only "to protect the lives of US pilots in reconnaissance flights," but also "to protect the lives of US pilots in the missions related to interdiction bombardments against North Vietnamese military supplies to South Viet Nam via Southern Laos."

The DRVN Foreign Ministry pointed out that to cover up their war acts and heinous crimes, the US authorities put forward lame excuses. However, in face of undeniable evidence and strong indignation of public opinion, they claimed that the US war raids has been intended to rescue detained pilots. Yet, this justification could in no way conceal the crimes committed by the United States against the DRVN. The US authorities even declared bluntly that the United States would carry out further air missions against North Viet Nam if deemed necessary "to protect the lives of American pilots," and that it would pursue every effort "to free" American pilots.

Obviously, the statement went on, the US imperialists are indulging in ever more serious war acts against the DRVN in violation of the US commitment to stop completely the bombardments against North Viet Nam, thus

(Continued page 2)



On a drying-yard of Binh Da co-op, credited with a yield of 10 tons of paddy/ha per year.

Bumper Rice Crop IN NORTH VIET NAM

THAI BINH:

All the districts of Thai Binh province obtain an average yield of 5 tons of paddy per hectare for the whole year.

HA TAY:

Binh Minh village:

10 tons per hectare for the whole year.

Dan Phuong district:

The yearly average productivity surpasses 7 tons per hectare.

(See page 2)

SOUTH VIET NAM

PLAF MILITARY ACTIVITY TO BE HALTED ON FESTIVE DAYS

THE PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam published on Dec. 1 a statement on the suspension of military activity on the occasion of Christmas, New Year's Day, and the Lunar New Year Festival.

The decision is consistent with the policy of leniency and respect for the customs and habits of the Vietnamese people and those of other countries. It is also prompted by the deep concern for the legitimate feelings and aspirations of the peoples of Viet Nam, the United States and other peoples in the world and those of the US, puppet and satellite troops.

The attacks will be suspended for three days on Christmas, from zero hour, December 24, 1970, to zero hour, December 27, 1970; for three days on New Year's Day, from zero hour, December 31, 1970, to zero hour, January 3, 1971; and for four days on Tan Hoi Lunar New Year's Day, from zero hour, January 26, 1971, to zero hour, January 30, 1971.

FREDERICK ENGELS'S 150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

IN the past 75 years since the demise of Engels, the path blazed by Marx and Engels has been the scene of the more and more vigorous march, and of many leaping bounds, of labouring mankind. Marxism has been developed into Marxism-Leninism. Proletarian revolution has won glorious successes beginning with the Great Russian October Revolution, which has ushered in a new era of history. Within less than two decades since that revolution, socialism has become a world system.

On the strategic offensives in the world today, the three mainstreams of present-day proletarian revolution — construction of socialism and communism in the socialist countries, national liberation and advance to socialism by bypassing the stage of capitalist development, and the movement of the working class and labouring people in the capitalist countries — are irresistibly mounting. At the same time, the US-led capitalist system is deeply bogged down in the third stage of its permanent general crisis, which will end only with its complete collapse, under the powerful onslaughts of proletarian revolution.

In the last century, Engels foresaw that the working class would completely triumph and mankind would replace all the old, injustice-ridden societies with a new, splendid society, that of civilized communism. In our times, this scientific prevision has step by step comé true.

Fully aware of the achievements and the bright prospects of world revolution, the working class and labouring people in all countries feel greatly indebted to Marxism-Leninism, which has shown them the way to victory. Today, celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Frederick Engels, labouring mankind, in the East as well as the West, share the same profound belief and express their heartfelt gratitude to the genial friend of Marx and great leader.

With gratitude to, and faith in, Engels, we shall strive to apply his lessons in a practical manner, in a way which suits our immediate political tasks.

Nhan Dan *(The People)*
Nov. 28, 1970

93rd Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Dec. 3, 1970)

"US Threats Only Toughen Our Resolve," *says Mr XUAN THUY*

MR Xuan Thuy chief of the DRVN Government delegation, once more castigated US war acts against the DRVN on November 21 and 22. He reaffirmed that US cessation of bombings and other war acts was total and unconditional and not based on any "understanding." Laird's utterances that the US had the right to resort to "protective reaction" in favour of US pilots in their reconnaissance flights over North Viet Nam and their bombings on Laos and of GIs in South Viet Nam were but threats which would stiffen the Vietnamese people's resolve to resist US aggression.

HEAVIER SETBACKS IN STORE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

seriously jeopardizing the work of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. Like its predecessor which engineered the so-called "Tonkin Gulf incidents" as a pretext to launch the war of destruction against the DRVN, the Nixon administration is now advancing justifications for continued and stepped-up adventurous actions against the DRVN. By so doing, it hopes to avert the unavoidable failure of its "Vietnamization" policy in South Viet Nam, to prevent the North Vietnamese people from carrying out their obligations toward their countrymen in South Viet Nam, and at the same time, to secure a "position of strength" so as to impose US terms on the Vietnamese people.

The statement recalled that in the past, the US imperialists had waged with their air and naval forces a war of destruction against the DRVN in the hope of extricating themselves from the quagmire in South Viet Nam. The armed forces and people in North Viet Nam shot down over 3,000 US aircraft, thwarted all the US strategic objectives, and fulfilled the obligations incumbent on the great rear area toward the heroic great fighting front. Over the past two years, with their constant vigilance and combat readiness, the armed forces and people in North Viet Nam have duly punished all war acts of the US aggressors against the DRVN and grounded over 100 US aircraft. Now, no matter how frenzied and reckless the US imperialists may be, they will only court even heavier setbacks.

The DRVN is an independent and sovereign country, the statement emphasized. Its territory, air space and territorial waters are inviolable. The Vietnamese people are firmly determined to punish any encroachment made by the US imperialists on the sovereignty and security of the DRVN, and to smash all new adventurous schemes and acts on their part.

Bumper Rice Crop IN NORTH VIET NAM

THAI BINH

Thai Binh, one of North Viet Nam's biggest rice-bowls, gathered this year another good harvest, at an average of 2.7 tons of paddy per hectare for the autumn crop, i.e., together with the previous one, 5.7 tons per hectare for the whole year (record yield for all provinces of North Viet Nam).

All the provinces' districts yield averaged 5 tons upward per hectare for the whole year. In 1966, Thai Binh was the first to hit the 5-ton mark and took the lead in the agricultural production drive with three objectives: 5 tons of paddy, two pigs and one man-year per hectare of cropland.

Three co-ops in the province reached a yearly output of 10 tons of paddy per hectare.

Thai Binh has also scored remarkable successes in the cultivation of subsidiary food plants and industrial crops and in breeding.

These abundant rice harvests had beneficial effects upon rearing. Herds of buffaloes and oxen increased 3.1 per cent as against 1969, those of pigs 25 per cent and production of duck-eggs doubled.

HA TAY

The Dan Phuong district (Ha Tay province) overfulfilled its plan by 4.5 per cent for rice acreage. 7 co-ops gathered 4 tons of paddy per hectare in the autumn crop.

For the whole district the average output was 3.8 tons per hectare. With the winter-spring harvest taken into account (3.3 tons per hectare), the yearly average productivity recorded by the district surpassed 7 tons per hectare, as against 5 tons per hectare in the past five years.

The Binh Da I, Binh Da II and Minh Sinh co-ops of Binh Minh village (Thanh Oai district, Ha Tay province) last autumn reaped from 5 to 8 tons of paddy per hectare. Taking the winter-spring crop into account, the yearly average reached from 9 to 10 tons per hectare.

Besides, these co-ops reared 3 pigs per hectare of cropland. And each working peasant tended one hectare of cropland.

THANH HOA

Five rice-producing districts of the province achieved an output of 2 - 2.6 tons of paddy per hectare in the last crop and 5 tons in both harvests of the whole year. Twenty advanced co-ops obtained from 2.7 to 3.8 tons per hectare in the current harvest and an aggregate 6 to 7 tons per hectare in both harvests of the year. It was the best crop brought in by the province for the past five years.

HA TINH

Dai Thanh co-op (Duc Tho district) gained 2.6 tons of paddy per hectare in the past harvest and up to 4 tons in some ricefields.

The yearly average output exceeded 5 tons per hectare, considering the winter-spring crop (output 2.8 tons per hectare).

This co-op was the first in the province to be credited with such an efficiency.

News in Brief

• On the 26th liberation anniversary of **Albania**, Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN, Le Duan, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, Truong Chinh, Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee, and Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of the DRVN Government, sent a congratulatory message to Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Albanian Party of Labour Central Committee, Haxhi Llashi, Chairman of the People's Assembly of the Albanian People's Democratic Republic; Mehmet Shehu, Chairman of the APDR Council of Ministers.

• President Ton Duc Thang sent on November 26 congratulations to President Moktar Ould Daddah on the 10th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the **Islamic Republic of Mauritania.**

• On the 3rd anniversary of the proclamation of independence of the **People's Republic of South Yemen,** President Ton Duc Thang and Premier Pham Van Dong sent a congratulatory message to Selem Ali Rabaya, President of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Ali Haithem, Prime Minister of the PRSY.

• On December 3 the VNWP Central Committee sent warm greetings to the 4th Congress of the **Venezuelan** Communist Party.

• An **Italian** Communist Party delegation, led by Giancarlo Pajetta, Politbureau member and member of the Party Leading Body, arrived in Hanoi on November 27 on a friendly visit to the DRVN at the invitation of the VNWP CC.

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The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

A SHORT HISTORY OF A VILLAGE

Situated some 20 km North of the capital of Hanoi as the crow flies, NAM HONG is one of the 23 villages of Dong Anh district on the city's outskirts. The village comprises 4 hamlets lying separately on an area covering about 800 hectares with an about - 5,000 population.

The following is a reportage on NAM HONG village by Pham Cuong.— Ed.

FOR FREEDOM

NOVEMBER has set in and it is getting cold. The sun is rising, the ricefields are shining with a golden glow: it is harvest-time.

The road leading to the village is still muddy after a rain. Mud and clay is sticking to the wheels of my bicycle. Perhaps difficulties are still delaying the realization of NAM HONG's plan to give this road a stone bed, a plan worked out 5 years ago when I first visited the village. In re-visiting it this time, a question is on my mind: has US destruction done any damage to NAM HONG?

There it is! The electric-powered pumping station in Tang My hamlet at one end of the village remains unscathed. The white-washed storehouse of the co-operative in *Doai* hamlet at the other end of the village can easily be seen from afar. The row of brick houses in *Dia* hamlet on the roadside has made its appearance only recently. *Ve* hamlet, the village's centre, is always bustling with activity. It is the seat of the village administration. The "Museum," the guest-house, the infirmary, the maternity home and the school are also located here. A new store has been added to the old one. The engineering workshop has just also been opened. A row of poles supporting electric wire along the village lanes gives a bit of urban look to the rural landscape. NAM HONG gets its power supply from a nearby high-voltage electric transmission line. After several years of war, electrification is now a reality at NAM HONG!

All these structures have been erected the last 15 years, since the end of the first Resistance war. How were things like before that? The village's Museum still preserves the vestiges of the past century.

Under the reign of Emperor Tu Duc (1847-1883) the inhabitants of NAM HONG rose up many times against heavy taxes. When the French colonialists began their occupation of Viet Nam, many of the villagers joined the armed resistance led by Hoang Hoa Tham (1887-1913). In 1943, a revolutionary base was established by the Indochinese C.P. at the village where the Viet Minh movement was aflame with the spirit of revolt. In 1945, NAM HONG farmers joined the rest of the people in staging the August Revolution and marched on the provincial capital (Dong Anh was then a district of Phuc Yen province) to seize power. In March 1946, the first 7-man Party cell was formed. In December of the same year, the nation-wide war of resistance broke out. NAM HONG which is on the edge of Hanoi and close to major communication lines, was one of the French prime targets. Its villagers put up a tireless fight and confronted successive enemy attacks. Their guerilla warfare came to a successful end on May 20, 1954 after beating off a large-scale "mop-up," just 2 months before the war ended in the whole country (July 20, 1954).

Apart from charts, pictures clay relief maps and other exhibits on display at the Museum, the visitor can also see scars of war around the village. The entrance gate at Tang My hamlet still bears an artillery shell hole. A dozen or more of the ponds in the village are former bomb craters. The bamboo groves around the village are very solid, capable of checking an enemy tank assault. The towering kapok tree at *Ve* hamlet formerly was the watchtower of the militia: the villagers had always been warned of the incoming enemy troops well beforehand. And this green jack-tree was once used by the enemy to hand 4 guerillas on. Here is one of the secret trenches, just by the side of a lane, formerly used as hiding places for cadres who lived for months there and only came out at night to carry out propaganda and agitation and organize the people. There, is an opening into an underground tunnel.

An underground shelter.

The guide tells me, "Down here is a system of interconnected trenches which zigzags under the village. If now we go into the tunnel, we shall get lost..."

The following account of the last action on May 20, 1954 is given by Bac a former commander of the tunnel battle at Tang My, now 44. (This sturdy, bald-headed, squint-eyed and square-jawed man fought 308 engagements with the enemy and was captured several times but always got off scot-free):

"I was then leader of the 24-man guerilla unit of Tang My hamlet. We were much better armed than before, yet the rate was still one rifle for every two fighters, although hand grenades could be counted by the case. We were organized into 5 combat teams to defend the village. That day 17 men from a regional army unit passing by also took part in the fighting.

"We received word that the enemy operation had started at 6 a.m. but the raiding party was still far off. The inhabitants were fast dispersed. The guerillas still had enough time to husk rice and prepare a meal. Everyboby was calm. Experience showed that the firing was less effective when the enemy was at a range of 100 metres or farther. We only opened up when the raiders came to close-quarters. Their strength was about 2 battalions, led by 4 tanks. They slammed plenty of artillery shells into the village and directed their frontal attack at Tang My. We didn't care a bit! The guerillas and regional troops waited until the artillery fire subsided, then emerged from their underground shelters and took up position in fortifications dug deep into the ramparts built around the village.

"Thinking that they had razed Tang My to the ground, the enemy troops began their advance. The guerillas waited for them to come within 50 metres from the village and fired. The first shots cut down many of them and took the attackers unawares. When they were within 15 or 20 metres from the edge of the village, the guerillas shifted to hand-grenades. They tossed them at the raiders who, with the boldness of despair, hurled back the ones which had not yet gone off. The guerillas waited until smoke fizzled from the grenades' fuse to throw them.

"The assailants took advantage of numerical superiority to launch massive assaults against any chink in the guerillas' defence. Nevertheless, thanks to the communication trenches and the solidly-built tunnel, the guerillas could swiftly move from one position to another and thus succeeded in checking many enemy attempts. At one time, a small band of enemy troops burst into the village and immediately a fierce house-to-house fight erupted. The guerillas always gained the upper hand: the tunnel system enabled the defenders to emerge unexpectedly at any place to shower

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RESISTANCE RECORD OF NAM HONG GUERILLAS AND PEOPLE

Number of battles: 308, including 38 attacks on military posts, 6 ambushes, 6 harassing actions at the market place, 14 operations with encirclement of enemy posts and agitation work among enemy troops, and 244 counter-raids.

Enemy casualty toll: 354 killed (including 5 puppet administration officials), 153 wounded, 11 captured and 135 forced to surrender.

War trophies: 72 rifles, 3 sub-machineguns, 780 hand grenades, 1 wireless set.

Destruction of enemy weapons and military facilities: 1 tank, 2 trucks, 1 wireless set, 1 machine-gun, a large quantity of military equipment, dozens of kilometres of railway and motor roads, 5 outposts and watchtowers.

Self-supplying weaponry: 1 carbine, 13 sub-machineguns, 8 small arms, 136 home-made grenades, 78 swords and hachets.

Building of fighting village: 465 secret hiding places, 3,125 fox-holes, 2,680 combat pits, 27,000 metres of combat trenches, 3,200 metres of communication trenches, 3,470 metres of tunnel 800 metres of ramparts, 600 casemates.

Contributions to the State: 216 tons of paddy yearly as agricultural tax, in addition to the amount of food used to feed the guerillas and regional troops in 5 years (1949-1954), 70 winter jackets for the guerillas.

Contributions in manpower: 312 people joined the regular and regional army; 367 joined carriers' lines in various military campaigns; 165 sacrificed their lives.

Communication trenches dug in the anti-French resistance.

The American Octopus IN LAOS

(Excerpts from a reportage by Bun Thoong, *a Lao journalist)*

VIENTIANE, AN AMERICAN CITY

Vientiane is a small cosmopolitan city of over one hundred thousand souls. Every year, at the That Luong fair the Lao police will run a stand in which they poster the lists of foreigners (Chinese, Vietnamese, French) residing in Vientiane, but keep mum about the number of American residents.

But American presence can be felt everywhere: buildings, offices, vehicles gliding in Vientiane streets, and airplanes roaring incessantly in its sky.

How many Americans are there in Vientiane at present? An American magazine put the number at five thousand, others seven thousand or over ten thousand. However if one considers the accommodations reserved for the Americans: villas, hotels, the USAID offices, the USIS offices, the US Embassy, the compound for American planes and airmen at Vattay airbase (known as "American City" in the suburbs of Vientiane), they in fact occupy nearly one-half of the housing area of the city. And of course the most beautiful villas.

They live in first-rate hotels such as "Lan Sang," "Setha Palace," "Hotel of the Press."

The "Peace Corps" members who are Americans, West Germans, Australians, Greeks etc., put up at second-class hotels like "Som Boun."

With regard to "leather-clad Americans," once they set foot in Vientiane they are driven right away in special cars to the 400-room "secret" hotel, at Vattay airbase reserved for US pilots where they can find all conveniences including air conditioners.

Now let's go about Vientiane for a sight-seeing. In every quarter you can see American villas: in Eastern Phalan, That Luong, Vattay, along the Mekong river. In all nooks and corners of Vientiane, you can see them except in two bustling high streets and in the labouring people's quarters. When you see ten expensive villas, be sure that eight are inhabited by the Americans.

But this is not enough. In a locality about ten kilometres from Vientiane there is a place luxuriant with vegetation where the US government has spent tens of millions of dollars to build about one hundred houses complete with a school, a swimming pool, a movie-theatre, a helicopter-ground, together with a special electric station and a special water-works: it is called "American City." To cater for this city, vegetables, meat, fruits and other foodstuffs are air-lifted from the Philippines as the Americans are afraid of "tropical diseases" in Laos, a land which they like very much insofar as military strategy is concerned.

Muong Sui, an American-Vientiane base, wiped out by the Lao patriotic forces.

What do the five thousand Americans living in this compound do everyday? It is no secret for the Vientianese. Everyday these people go and work in such governmental offices as the Presidency, the National Defence Ministry, the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Finances, under various denominations: advisors, experts, etc. They also work at the General Headquarters, the Police Superintendence, military training schools, the barracks of the Lao rightist army. Of course, they also work in their official offices such as the USAID, USIS and US Embassy.

Everybody knows of a special compound at Vattay for the parking of an unidentified white-painted type of airplanes bearing on the tail only some plain number. Everyday they fly hundreds of Americans to various military sectors, army barracks, especially to the area of the Meo "special forces" operating in Northern Laos under command of bandit general VangPao.

In a word, the Americans in Vientiane are usually in civvies except the official "military attachés." The hotel waiters notice that oddly enough these American civilian guests always have their pistols or even swords close at hand.

We remember there was a time when the White House repeatedly declared that there was no military personnel in Laos. The US propaganda machine has also been harping on this theme. The US hates the sight of colonialists wearing pointed helmets and khaki uniforms and swinging their sticks. It loathes such people as residents general, administrators, "gendarmes," etc. True that there are none of those in Vientiane, but there are plenty of Americans in plain clothes and sports caps with a pistol bulging behind. There are neither American governors nor administrators nor policemen in Vientiane, Savannakhet, Pakse, but only an American ambassador and thousands of "advisors," including a host of CIA and DIA operatives What do they do? What is the service they are rendering to our Lao people? Are they our good friends?

THE TENTACLES OF THE AMERICAN OCTOPUS

THE American octopus has its head in Washington. To cling to Laos, it has stretched out many tentacles the US Embassy, the USAID (US Agency for International Development), CIA and DIA. Having the same head, these infiltration and sabotage organs however have each its own organizational system. Sometimes because of their parochial interests, they clash with one another and go so far as to publicly exchange abuses. Nevertheless all their activities help Washington achieve its purpose which is to turn Laos into a full US dependency.

Everybody knows that, for a decade now, the various factions in the zones controlled by the Lao rightist elements have been constantly squabbling. In Vientiane, rumours of coups d'etat have succeeded one another. In fact, while wirepulling their puppets, the Americans keep in store behind-the-scene many others. The operators are mostly CIA agents.

The following story once was abroad among the Lao officialdom:

One day, hearing of the wrangle between the rightist generals, a man asked Sullivan, US Ambassador to Laos, half in jest, half in earnest during a function: "Mr Ambassador, what do you think of the neighing in the stable in the backyard of your house?"

Sullivan shrugged his shoulders and, glancing sidewards his neighbours, answered: "Not my house, but that of someone else, sir."

That someone "else" was Pratt, a CIA topman acting as "secretary" of the US Embassy.

Let's go "visit" some of these CIA sanctuaries. Driving on a road along the Mekong river, a little farther than the "Lan Sang" *de luxe* hotel, you can see in a quiet locality some swanky villas, with gravel drives, plenty of vegetation, flowers and creepers. You are inclined to think that they are the residences of some retired officials who like to live a secluded life. No, this appearance is deceptive.

They are the living quarters of CIA operatives in Laos. Of course, these men frequently change their abodes.

However, what they are doing here is not so nice as their homes look. They are what we usually call the "noiseless gun and masked set."

When a new political situation or a tension arises, the Vientianese can see with their own eyes the shuttling of cars carrying CIA agents to the Presidency, the military bureaux at Phon Khen, Chinaimo, the ministries, administrative offices, or the residences of ministers. Even at the Presidency, the sentries know their faces so well that they never dare stop their cars for a check even if these fly no flag and display no diplomatic plates.

Some Vientiane wryly dub them "political doctors" because on such occasions they are all in a flutter feeling the pulses of the Vientiane authorities and administering to them "military" or "political" remedies which the patients have to swallow even though the medicines are opiates or poisons. This has actually happened. When in 1964 the clash between the soldiers of Gen. Phoumi Nosavan and those of Gen. Kouprasith was getting out of control, CIA and DIA agents hurriedly met the two generals for a "powwow." However, when feeling that the scale had tipped in favour of his opponent, Nosavan went to take his "cue" from his bosses, he received a curt US style answer: "Go at once to Thailand," which he and the Lao people construed as a decision to relegate him to the position of a "reserve" puppet. And Phoumi Nosavan willingly complied with the injunction and has been living in clover in Thailand, biding his time.

The owners of the quiet villas show great interest in all the political development in Vientiane.

The "National Assembly" in Vientiane sometimes holds plenary sessions which "in principle" are opened to the public. The seats on the two upper circles of the House are reserved for this purpose, but they are usually empty, for no citizens are so idle as to come and listen to the futile debate in that "mockery of parliament." However the CIA men never miss a sitting: they come in full kit: wire recorder, camera and of course interpreters who usually are of Thai origin. Some of them speak Lao fluently and can do without an interpreter.

Under the solicitous eyes of these Americans, it is a matter of course that the Vientiane "MPs" think twice before they speak.

(To be continued)

JAPANESE ECONOMIC DESIGNS in Southeast Asia and Viet Nam

(Concluded)

II — SOUTH VIET NAM

1 – IN THE WAKE OF THE AMERICANS

TRUE to her collusion with the US, Japan backs the American war efforts to penetrate deeper in South Viet Nam. The growingly patent failure of US aggression has incited the Japanese government and monopolies to separate the economic aspect of their relations with Viet Nam from their political aspect in order to net immediate profits while not compromising the future.

Japanese expansion in South Viet Nam has gone through various stages in step with the evolution of the situation in the country.

From 1954 to 1960, founding year of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, during which the Americans granted to the Ngo Dinh Diem regime a substantial "aid" in the hope of stabilizing it, in the wake of the US, Japan rapidly boosted her exports to South Viet Nam and ranked second in this field, after the US and before France.

During the "special war" (1960-1965), as Washington was forced to increase its "aid" and protect the dollar by supplying American goods rather than free foreign currencies, Japan saw her exports to South Viet Nam dwindle to the point that they were inferior to Taiwan's.

With the introduction of half-a-million-strong expeditionary force, the "local war" (1965-early 1968) completely changed the situation. As the Americans could not meet their rising military needs themselves and the Saigon puppet administration had gained on-the-spot spendings, the Japanese firms recovered their second place as exporters.

After the flop of the US air war against the DRVN at the beginning of 1968—a turning point in the conflict—the Sato government as well as the Japanese monopolist magnates showed a particular interest in Saigon's "post-war economic plan." Sato even declared his readiness to help "rebuild Viet Nam": at present Tokyo is anxious to secure a preponderant place in the "restoration of peace." Meanwhile it is helping Nixon prolong the war through "Vietnamization;" in other words it is unreservedly propping up the Saigon tottering regime so as to enable the latter to make the greatest war effort possible as required by Washington.

2 – CONQUEST OF SOUTH VIET NAM MARKET

AS has been said above, the value of Japanese exports to South Viet Nam up to 1961 has, compared to other countries, risen as follows (according to Saigon's statistical annual):

Year	Japanese exports *	US exports *	French exports *
1956	1,954	2,136	1,776
1957	2,160	2,294	2,894
1958	1,575	1,919	2,058
1959	1,608	2,047	1,419
1960	1,844	2,141	1,787
1961	2,095	2,391	1,359

** In million Saigon piastres. One US dollar was worth 35 piastres at the official rate in force from 1955 to 1966.*

From 1962 to 1965, that value declined sensibly (same source):

Year	Japanese exports *	US exports *	Taiwan exports *
1962	1,562	3,400	875
1963	965	3,745	1,311
1964	1,124	4,420	1,339
1965	1,150	5,667	1,646

** In million Saigon piastres.*

From 1966 onwards, the value of Japanese exports has gone up substantially: 138 million dollars in 1966, 174.5 million in 1967, 198.4 million in 1968. (1)

Japanese manufactured goods are swamping South Viet Nam's market, and the value of some of them even exceeds that of US goods: textiles, buses, looms, agricultural machines, radio sets, paper... In return, the Japanese firms buy white sand, scrap-iron, fishing products, eggs, natural rubber at preferential prices for a small amount of money which morever decreases year after year: 5.38 million dollars in 1966, 4.57 million in 1967 and only 2.71 million in 1968. (2)

Japan possesses an extensive trading network composed of branches of big firms, technical representatives, a branch of the Bank of Tokyo, local agents. Vessels of the three shipping companies are plying between Japanese ports and those of South Viet Nam, not including freighters charted by the Americans.

However, more than the volume of exports, Japanese expansion is characterized by its methods.

3 – JAPAN, A WAR SUPPLIER

WHILE the above-mentioned exports are operated directly between Japanese firms and Saigon, others, more important, are carried through the US. By virtue of PD.31 (Policy Determination No 31), the Agency for International Development (AID) orders and pays some goods for the account of the Saigon administration. Japan can make use of the dollars earned from the transactions only to buy goods in the United States. Such purchases include cement needed for the building of military works and chemical fertilizers whose utilization, the Americans hope, will impel agriculture and enable the areas under their control to be self-sufficient in rice. It must be recalled in this connection that before World War II, South Viet Nam sold over one million tons of rice per year but this year she has to buy over half a million tons.

But the most important orders are those placed by the Pentagon to support the US military efforts. Though they are paid with appropriations from the Viet Nam war budget and shipped directly to seaports in South Viet Nam and other Southeast Asian countries involved in this war, the US statistics list them as Japanese goods exported to the US. By this subterfuge, Japan does not appear as war supplier. The same chapter includes war material repair charges, shipping, hospital fees for GIs treated in Japan. Thus it is difficult to get accurate figures on the importance of these profits, but, according to the Japanese and Saigon press, it amounts to some 800 million dollars a year.

Another source of foreign currency for Japan is the dollars spent by GIs on leave in Japanese cities. According to the Pentagon, a GI every day spends 53 dollars in Tokyo and 30 dollars in Okinawa. It is estimated that Japan earned from this source 62 million dollars in 1964, 71 million in 1965 and 89 million in 1967.

4 – JAPANESE-STYLE AID

UPI wrote on Sept. 23, 1967 that up to that date, Japan had granted to the Saigon administration a 55-million-dollar "aid."

War reparations which were also included in that chapter amounted to 14,040 million yens, or 39 million dollars. This was, for Japanese trade, an excellent means of infiltration. The most substantial part of the sum—12,646 million yens or 37 million dollars—was earmarked for the construction of the dam for the Da Nhim hydro-power station, 250 km northeast of Saigon. By supplying turbines, the bulk of other engines and spare parts as well as by executing the essential works, Japan virtually controlled the whole project. The remaining went to the building of small workshops, the blueprinting of hydraulic projects. War damages were thus for the Japanese monopolies an important source of export of manufactured goods and a means to secure new outlets.

As far as direct investments regarded as financial and technical "aid" are concerned, up to 1968, they were made in minor joint enterprises turning out chinaware and printing ink, in assembly workshops for Japanese-made machines, etc. The establishment of a Moka coffee plantation at Blao, of a sugar refinery at Quang Ngai and of a motor-car assembly workshop at Bien Hoa is still on paper.

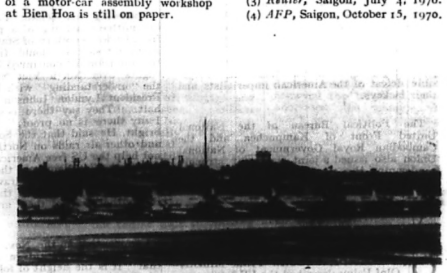
On the contrary, since the Nixon administration showed its intention to prolong the war, the Japanese government and monopolies have stepped up their "aid" to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration. The US tries to tie Japan up to its Asian neo-colonial policy. The report of the US congressmen's delegation referred to in the first part of this article, estimates that Japanese economic "aid" to the Saigon regime's drive against "communist infiltration in Southeast Asia" has not answered to Washington's expectation. During his South Viet Nam trip in July last, Rogers found that Tokyo should not only share in post war work, but do its bit right now (3). It was for that purpose that Nguyen Van Thieu's Prime Minister went to Japan on the same date and that a Japanese economic delegation visited South Viet Nam in October last. Abe, head of the Japanese delegation said that rehabilitation of the country required time and a stable situation, but that this did not prevent the boosting of investments, for the two problems were not mutually exclusive (4). Already by

(Continued page 7)

(1), (2) Economic Reporter, *Hongkong, June 22, 1970.*

(3) *Reuter*, Saigon, July 4, 1970.

(4) *AFP*, Saigon, October 15, 1970.



A US air base in Japan from where American aircraft flew bombardments against the DRVN.

WORLD OPINION INDIGNANT AT US RAIDS AGAINST DRVN

IN a speech delivered in Yerevan on November 29 to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia, Leonid Breznev, Secretary General of the **CPSU** Central Committee, condemned "the latest provocative raids of the US air force on a number of villages in the DRVN and the unprecedentedly brazen attempts by some Washington politicians to legalize such banditry, to give the USA the 'right', so to speak, to behave as unrestrained masters of the territory and airspace of other countries."

"With the support of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries," he said, "the fighting Vietnamese people have foiled all plans and calculations of the American militarists. The American diplomatic circles, therefore, have had to resort to equivocations to keep world public opinion including the United States from seeing the cul-de-sac of the US after ten years of its war of aggression in Southeast Asia."

"The way to end the war in Viet Nam is there for everybody to see. It is a stop to US military intervention, the withdrawal of the troops of aggression and the settlement by the Vietnamese people themselves of their internal affairs," Breznev pointed out, adding that, "The just cause of the fighting Vietnamese people will also, in the future, can rely on the help and support of the Soviet Union."

IN a message sent to Premier Pham Van Dong on November 27, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, **Cambodian** Head of State and Chairman of the National United Front of Kampuchea, came out strongly against the fresh US acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

"These air bombardments could by no means be justified despite all the pretexts invoked or justifications advanced by President Richard Nixon," the message said. "They constitute an unpardonable violation of the sovereignty and independence of the DRVN and, in fact, were typical of an arch-criminal gangsterism responsible for innumerable sinister 'exploits' in Viet Nam as well as in Cambodia and Laos."

"We express our profound admiration for the Government of the DRVN who once again took an extremely firm and courageous stand towards the mad and intolerable intimidatory actions of the Nixon administration," the message added. "We most warmly congratulate the anti-aircraft units of the DRVN for having valiantly responded to these threats by bringing down 6 American marauding planes. We assure our Vietnamese brothers that we shall always stand by their side, and together with them and the fraternal Lao people, unflinchingly and uncompromisingly fight till the total and irreversible defeat of the American imperialists and their lackeys."

The Political Bureau of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Cambodian Royal Government of National Union also issued a joint statement strongly condemning the recent US air raids against North Viet Nam.

ON December 2, **Swedish** Prime Minister Olof Palme described the US Nov. 21-22 bombardments against the DRVN as "completely insane." In a speech delivered in Halmstad he said that these raids ran counter to the interests of the world's people who want a rapid peace in Viet Nam.

IN a resolution unanimously adopted by the opening session, the **World Conference on Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia**, which began in Stockholm on Nov. 28, voiced strong protest against the US acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The resolution read in full as follows:

The bombing of different areas of the DRVN by US air planes on November 21-22 was a provocation clearly aimed at creating new tensions in Indochina, intimidating the people, thus seriously threatening the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and giving the US Administration the pretext for new acts of war. The US Air Force has no right to carry out its reconnaissance flights in the air space of the DRVN. These flights are flagrant violations of the sovereignty and security of the DRVN. Therefore, there is no reason for retaliation for the North Vietnamese defence measures. The recent bombing was a new US crime of aggression which must be most severely condemned.

"The Conference demands that the US stop unconditionally all violations of the sovereignty and security of the DRVN."

THE US Nov. 21-22 air raids against the DRVN came under sustained and angry fire last week from **Senators** W. Fulbright, C. Mansfield, E. Muskee, G. Mc Govern, M. Hatfield, G. Aiken, etc. and from the American people.

Again, on Nov. 19, Sen. W. Fulbright came out against them and Nixon's Viet Nam policy. Refuting the justifications of the White House saying that the US Nov. 21 air raids against North Viet Nam were not an "escalation" of the Indochina war, W. Fulbright underlined that they were "a major increase of the intensity of the war." He told newsmen that the bombing was very ominous and "it would seem to indicate that the [US] actual policy is to escalate the war and to seek a military victory." He also regarded it as "not consistent with the hope of having a negotiated settlement."

Following his Senate Foreign Relations Committee's hearing of a private testimony from Under Secretary of State John N. Irwin, Fulbright said he could find no proof that the provision for continued US reconnaissance flights over North Viet Nam was part of the "understanding" with Hanoi that led to President Lyndon Johnson's total bombing halt. "They say there is an understanding, I say there is no proof," declared W. Fulbright. He said that the Son Tay adventure and other air raids on North Viet Nam could not help the US free American pilots detained in North Viet Nam and the US must negotiate for the total withdrawal of his troops from South Viet Nam as the French did for the withdrawal of their armed forces from Indochina.

Commenting on the Nov. 21-22 air strikes, Sen. Mc Govern said in a Senate speech that "it is the height of folly for the [Nixon] administration to resume bombing attacks which have been so clearly self-defeating in the past."

News from LAOS

★ Repeated Attacks of Lao Patriotic Armed Forces

– 500 ENEMY TROOPS WIPED OUT WITHIN 15 DAYS.

– VIENTIANE TROOPS FORCED OUT OF BAN NA, MUONG POT, PHOU XEO *(Xieng Khoang)*, MUONG PHIN *(Savannakhet)*.

DURING the first half of November 1970, the Lao patriotic armed forces and people in Xieng Khoang and Savannakhet provinces put out of action over 500 US puppet troops, shot down 5 US aircraft and captured or destroyed many weapons and other war material, first reports from Laos said.

In the period under review, the Xieng Khoang province armed forces and people knocked out over 300 enemy troops, downed 3 US aircraft, seized or destroyed many weapons and other war material and forced the enemy out of Ban Na, Muong Pot and Phou Xeo areas and many other strategic positions southwest of the Plain of Jars – Xieng Khoang region.

Especially, in the attacks from November 11 to 14 in Ban Na and Muong Pot areas, the Lao patriots wiped out nearly 120 enemy troops, and brought down two US aircraft. Earlier, from November 6 to 11, 1970, 70 enemy casualties had been inflicted.

From Nov. 1 to 13 four US aircraft were grounded: one AD6 and one T28 at Savannakhet, one T28 at Ban Na (Xieng Khoang) and one chopper at Sancho (Xieng Khoang), thus raising to 1,555 the total of US aircraft downed in Laos since May 17, 1964.

Meanwhile, the Lao patriotic armed forces and people in Savannakhet province exacted a toll of 200 enemy troops and shot down two US aircraft.

One of the most successful battle was the November 5 attack on two enemy companies illegally stationed in Na Pho area, 6 km west of Muong Phin district, in which the Lao patriots put out of combat nearly one hundred enemy troops, seized or destroyed a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment and forcing the Vientiane troops to withdraw from Muong Phin and many other areas south of Highway 9.

★ Souvanna Phouma To Be Blamed for Delay of Lao Princes' Meeting

THE office of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front has issued a communique on the meeting in Vientiane on November 24 between Tiao Souk Vongsak, special envoy of Prince Souphanouvong, and Prince Souvanna Phouma, *KPL* reported.

At the meeting, the communique said, Tiao Souk Vongsak asserted once again with Prince Souvanna Phouma that the forthcoming meeting at Khang Khay would take place between the plenipotentiary of Prince Souphanouvong and that of Prince Souvanna Phouma. Taking part in the meeting on each side will be one plenipotentiary representative, and one or two aids. He proposed that to ensure absolute security for the meeting as well as for the journey of Prince Souphanouvong's plenipotentiary from Sam Neua to Khang Khay, to create a favourable atmosphere and enable the meeting at Khang Khay to begin at an early date, aircraft of the US, the Vientiane army and other pro-US forces must stop all bombardments and other activities in Sam Neua and Xieng Khoang provinces during the following periods of time: 15 days before the beginning of the first meeting, during the meeting and 10 days after the meeting. The security on the ground for the meeting will be the responsibility of the Lao patriotic forces.

During the meeting, the communique added, Prince Souvanna Phouma still styled himself "Prime Minister of the Provisional National Union Government," and repeated his slanders and misrepresentations about the "presence of North Vietnamese troops in Laos" with a view to rejecting Prince Souphanouvong's proposal regarding the security for the Khang Khay meeting.

He expressed the apprehension that the holding of the talks at Khang Khay would meet with too many difficulties and once again proposed Vientiane as alternative site.

"It is clear," the communique concluded, "that Prince Souvanna Phouma's refusal to accept Prince Souphanouvong's proposal for ensuring the necessary security for the meeting

(Continued page 7)

NIXON'S "VIETNAMIZATION" CASTIGATED BY AMERICANS

AFTER the October 31, 1970 mammoth demonstration, Americans went on opposing Nixon's "Vietnamization."

Over 1,000 representatives to the annual convention of the "National Congress of the Blacks" held in Baltimore unanimously passed a resolution demanding Nixon to immediately pull out all American troops from South Viet Nam.

On November 11, "Anxious Graduates from Military Academies" released a statement urging the US government to immediately end the aggressive war in Viet Nam, repatriate all American boys and withdraw its support from the rotten Saigon rulers.

Addressing the "Symposium on Violence" at John Hopkins University on November 13, Steele Commager, a history professor, blamed the US administration for the savage war of aggression in Viet Nam and for raising mass massacres to the level of a national policy.

In response to the call of the "National Coalition Against War, Racism and Repression," many progressive American bodies kept a "Week of Struggle Against Genocidal Policy" in protest of the US imperialists' genocidal practice against coloured people in the USA and other countries, especially the Indochinese peoples. This week concluded with a big rally in front of the UNO office against US nasty war of aggression in Viet Nam and Nixon administration's November 21 bombings of various localities of the DRVN.

Many distinguished personalities raised their voices against Nixon's "Vietnamization." Dr B. Spock declared that this policy of the US President and his "peace" proposals only aimed at duping the Americans. Atlee Beechy, professor of pedagogy at Goshen University, California, was of the opinion that Nixon's "pitting Asians against Asians" plan was a mistake and that Nguyen Thi Binh's 8-point peace plan constituted a most sound basis for discussing a settlement to the Viet Nam problem. Lowel Merrit, a retired colonel and chief of a group of veterans belonging to the "Urban League" in Washington, stated that the US war in Viet Nam was unpopular and that the American veteran was not a hero admired by his country and accessible to employment (according to White House official statistics, the jobless army was swollen by 211,000 ex-servicemen back from the Viet Nam battlefield, including 50,000 Black soldiers).

In an article in the November 17 issue of *Look*, Averell Harriman, ex-chief of the American delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, wrote:

"We should want to stop this fighting in Viet Nam. To me, the Vietnamization of the war is an immoral thing. We have no right to perpetuate this fighting. Every effort should be made to end the human tragedy that is going on in South Viet Nam."

News in Brief

(Continued from page 2)

● Invited by the Peace Central Council of **India** and the Peace Council of **Nepal**, a Viet Nam Peace Committee Council delegation, led by Tran Dang Khoa, Vice-Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee and member of the Viet Nam Peace Committee, has recently paid a friendly visit to these two countries.

● A delegation of the **USSR** Red Cross, led by its First Vice-Chairman Professor Doctor F. G. Zakhrov, arrived in Hanoi on a friendly visit to the DRVN at the invitation of the Viet Nam Red Cross.

● As guests of the **DRVN Health Ministry**, a delegation of **Chinese** biologists, led by Pui She Chang, Director of the Physiological Institute of the PRC Academy of Sciences, arrived in Hanoi on a friendly visit to the DRVN.

● Prime Minister Pham Van Dong has just signed a decision to open in the "School of Socialist Labour Youth of Hoa Binh" a higher education course to train engineers of agriculture and forestry and general education teachers of the 3rd degree for the province.

Japanese Economic Designs...

(Continued from page 5)

now, Saigon official sources have anounced Tokyo's agreement to a 9.5-million-dollar "aid." What especially appeals to the Japanese monoplies in this field is the exploitation of agricultural resources, chiefly in the Mekong Delta, which is consistent with the Sato government's formula: Japanese industry plus Asian agriculture.

THUS, with regard to Southeast Asian countries and more especially South Viet Nam, adhering to her collusion with US imperialism, Japan backs the pro-US anti-popular regimes and serves for the US as a base of intervention. By this way she expects to achieve her own expansion. This is a neo-colonialist policy which is all the more dangerous since it dovetails with the re-emergence of Japanese militarism. No doubt the Asian peoples will not fall into the trap.

Souvanna Phouma...

(Continued from page 6)

at Khang Khay as well as his change of mind with regard to its site are aimed at delaying it at a time when, as is known to all, the Vientiane army, under US orders, and with the support of mercenary units of Thailand, are mounting inroads into the Plain of Jars—XiengKhoang region, when units of Mobile Regiment 22 have been called in for attacks against areas southwest of the Plain of Jars. Everybody can see that the inconsistent and casual attitude of Prince Souvanna Phouma is inspired by outside pressure on him to help carry out the dark schemes of the US in the current dry season in Laos."

A SHORT STORY...

(Continued from page 3)

the enemy with bullets or grenades. Adverse casualties were high. They also ran into an infinite variety of obstacles including spike-traps and mine-fields. Those who had stepped into them screamed horribly; and their cries struck fear into the hearts of their mates and blunted their aggressiveness. While engaging the enemy at close range, the guerillas used loudspeakers to carry out persuasion work; this produced damaging effects on their morale and accelerated their disintegration.

"From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., after many unsuccessful waves of assault, the enemy had to withdraw, leaving behind 46 dead, and countless wounded men. As reprisals, in the following days, they lobbed artillery shells into the village from nearby posts and finally their aircraft dropped 85 bombs on Tang My..."

When the guns fell silent in the whole country, statistics were made of the crimes committed by the enemy against the inhabitants of Nam Hong throughout the resistance period. 244 raids had been mounted on the village, 416 people killed, 420 others tortured or raped, 2,047 houses burned or destroyed, and 436 tons of paddy, 77 buffaloes and oxen, and 1,020 pigs taken away. Pham Diet of *Dia* hamlet who was one of the 3 elders buried alive by the enemy during a raid in October 1953 and saved by the guerillas, is still living. I have met him and his story is gruesome indeed.

While fighting the enemy for freedom, the villagers had to keep food production going for a living. They dug shelters right in the rice-fields. On the hissing of an incoming artillery shell, they quickly set their buffaloes free and jumped into the dug-outs. When the firing stopped, they went on with the ploughing or harrowing. Sometimes after 3 attempts, ploughing in a plot of rice-field had to be halted as a few draught animals had been killed by the enemy bombs or shells. Asked about their feeling, all of village elders have the same answer. "At first," they said, "there was some fear which was soon replaced by courage-giving hatred."

Relentless fighting implanted new habits in the villagers. The course of their daily life was so intimately merged in combat that it looked as an integral part of the latter and the dividing line was blurred. The enemy were approaching but the guerillas kept on eating or talking and cracking jokes. During a wedding party, when the bride and bridegroom were receiving wishes for "a hundred years' happiness," the enemy opened a whithering fire outside the village. People at once scattered into cover and returned to find the wedding feast intact. A woman near her time had a baby right after reaching a secret trench. Soon after delivery, she had to carry her baby to safety. "As 'mop-ups' were frequent, the villagers were always in full preparedness. Necessaries were always at hand. A few moments after the alert was sounded, they could move out of the village in good order. No baby's cry was heard. Even the buffaloes re-adjusted themselves to the situation: at the beats of tocsins and gongs, when the gates were opened, they left their sheds and instinctively broke into a run behind their owners. Chickens and ducks also went into hiding by themselves in shrubs.

Sometimes the enemy entered the village to find that no one had fled. The peasants converged on a place where they staged a sit-in and started a political confrontation with the assailants. Often enough, these were shaken by the people's unflinching unity. Once with the help of an informer, they discovered a paddy cache at *Vz* hamlet. The locals were forced to load the stock on 5 lorries sent in to move it. A woman Party member advised them to spill some of the paddy on the ricefield or hide it somewhere in the fields or the gardens during the loading. After the enemy withdrawal, the inhabitants were able to recover nearly 2 tons of paddy. Co-villagers at other hamlets started a collection campaign to help make good the losses.

Another time, the enemy came to the village to impress 50 youths. The women's organization was out to foil this attempt: mothers and wives raised a hell of a noise with their cries and held their children and husbands back with all their strength.

Meanwhile, the guerillas laid an ambush to rescue the draftees. During a raid on *Dia* hamlet, the enemy tried to brutalize old people into showing the secret trenches but without success. No one spoke despite the savage beating which caused one dead.

Examples of courage and sacrifice seem endless among the Nam Hong farmers, especially the women's folk. A typical figure is Mrs Qui who is still alive. Under heavy enemy fire, she brought food to the fighters and tended the wounded. Throughout the resistance years, she built secret trenches and fed the cadres and guerillas. A widow, she is a mother of 6: 3 sons and 3 daughters. Her eldest son was killed during a sweep in 1949 and 3 of her other children who joined the guerilla unit laid down their lives in later engagements, her favourite daughter fell at the age of 15.

The cemetery for war martyrs is in the central sector of the village, on a high ground, with the way in line with casuarina trees. More than 100 graves with tombetones inscribed with the names of the deceased and the date of their death are ranged in close order.

The Secretary of the village committee of the Party tells me the story of a fallen comrade:

"Comrade Thanh, political instructor of the village guerilla team, was captured during an enemy raid in January 1952. After applying the most savage torture they could devise, the enemy failed to get any information from him. Finally they decided to execute him at *Van Ty* market place. Before the firing squad, Thanh calmly smiled and removed the blindfold, then addressed the enemy, 'I don't fear death. I'm going to die. My comrades will avenge me.' He turned to the people standing there, full of anger and sorrow, and gave them the last message, 'Be sure that our Resistance will triumph.' The last rifle shots rang but could not drown the cries he shouted as he fell: 'Long live the Indochinese CP!', 'Long live President Ho Chi Minh!'."

(To be continued)

PLAF PUNCH DEVASTATING IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

NAM BO (South Viet Nam proper) was the scene of most fierce battles in November 1970, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

Nam Bo: the PLAF foil "pacification" operations and hit hard at enemy bases

IN November, in **Western Nam Bo**, the wartermark was very high; at some places the water rose 3 or 4 metres above ground. The inhabitants of the flood-stricken areas had to move to high hills or lift their floors nearly up to the former roof level and spent many days and nights on sampans. Taking advantage of the situation, puppet divisions launched a series of "pacification" operations codenamed "Mekong 7/3," "Mekong 7/4," "Mekong 9/9," etc. The puppet Infantry Divison 21, engaged in a sweep in Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces, was not only beaten off with heavy losses by the guerillas, but also received unexpected blows from regional and main forces of Western Nam Bo. The surprise attacks on the barracks of Regiment 4, Battalion 31 (night of Nov. 1) and on the troop encampment in the Ong Doc river area (night of Nov. 7) exacted 300 enemy casualties. The Regiment 32 HQ also came under fire suddenly and suffered hundreds of casualties.

On the night of November 10 the PLAF men assaulted the enemy defence line along Xeo Ro canal (Rach Gia province) and many posts on the Ong Doc river (See *VNC* No 296).

Operation "Mekong 9/9" in Chau Doc province also ended dismally. The enemy tried to "isolate" the liberation fighters in Seven Mountains, Tri Ton district, while in the Co To mountainous area the PLAF men assailed their two troop encampments and wiped out more than a hundred men within four days (Nov. 5-8). At the same time at the foot of Co To Mount guerillas unceasingly harassed the enemy and put out of action tens of them in each engagement.

IN **Saigon battlefront**: in areas South of Saigon, 3 regiments of the puppet Infantry Division 7 together with 2 armoured battalions and 3 batteries of 105mm gun mounted operation "Mekong 7/4." Townsfolks and fighters of Long Kien province skilfully resisted with the usual three kinds of actions — combat, political struggle and agitation among enemy troops. On the night of November 4 and in three successive days after, the guerillas and regional troops knocked out nearly 130 adverse troops, destroyed 2 guns and one big howitzer. In Duc Hoa district on November 4, 9 and 15, while some 1,000 inhabitants, including puppet troops' relatives, staged a demonstration against enemy operations and obstructed them, nearly 1,000 others rose up and set up obstacles on roads, and regional armed forces depleted 2 enemy platoons, demolished many posts and got control over 2 hamlets of a village.

North of Saigon, the enemy did their best to "pacify" the areas along Road No 22 so as to both defend Saigon and control the access to Cambodia. Nevertheless in Tay Ninh province, where this road passed through, the enemy were pinned down in passivity; at Ba Den mountainous region, 15km from its provincial capital, 112 adverse troops were mown down in two days (Nov. 1 and 4). One battalion of the puppet Infantry Division 25 had to retreat from this area (Nov. 6). Around the provincial capital, the PLAF launched a surprise attack on a group of enemy troops; hundreds of these were cut down (Nov. 7). Pressing their advantage, the armed militiamen of the provincial capital killed scores of police thugs in a clash and the guerillas continuously ambushed the enemy on Road No 22 and destroyed many military vehicles.

In face of that situation, the American troops were forced to hurl a part of Brigade 2 of the American Infantry Division 25 in counter-attacks to defend eastern Saigon.

Trung Bo: PLAF trounced the American troops on interdiction and reconnaissance actions around Hue city, and puppet troops on sweeps in flood-hit Central Trung Bo

IN order to defend **Hue** City, the American Paratroop Division 101 carried out incessant interdiction and reconnaissance actions around Hue city.

Parachuted on an area near the O Lau river, north of the city, an enemy platoon was wiped out (Nov. 5); on Khe Moi area, northwest of the city, another platoon was battered; on Hill 360, southwest of the city, a company was soundly beaten (Nov. 13); and on the bank of the Bo river, north of the city, a reconnaissance platoon was entirely written off (Nov. 16). Thus, far from keeping Hue city immune from PLAF attacks, the US paratroopers had to pay a heavy toll.

In **Central Trung Bo**, the enemy taking advantage of the floods launched "pacification" operations which were also fought off. In Quang Nam province nearly 300 adverse men were killed or wounded. In Hoai Nhon, "pacification" key area of Binh Dinh province, 117 others were knocked out and a puppet scout platoon was depleted.

THE American military authorities in South Viet Nam announced in last November that they would give rewards from 4 to 84 dollars to anyone who showed them a mine-field or a booby-trap, etc., which in fact was an old method formerly used by the French expeditionary forces. It was a sign of their perplexity before the growth of guerilla warfare carried out by the entire population. The French colonialists had eventually failed. The US aggressors will not fare any better.

American General Admits Viet Nam Guerilla Threat

ADMITTING the "Viet Cong guerilla threat" to American marines, General Lewis Walt called himself "naive" on November 18 as he and other US leaders "didn't appreciate the importance of the guerrilla," *AP* reported.

L. Walt who led US marines in South Viet Nam for more than two years and now assistant commandant, told newsmen at a Pentagon briefing that he and other US leaders were "very optimistic early in the Viet Nam war" and did not understand that "you just can't go in and wipe out" guerillas.

"When I got out there I didn't understand this war," he said, adding that he found in a recent visit "the Viet Cong guerilla threat."

Another *AP* report on the same day dealt with booby-traps and mines — deadly devices of the guerilla war in South Viet Nam. It reported that a single booby trap that day killed 5 Americans and wounded another of the US 196th Brigade just after breakfast as they moved out 42 miles south-southeast of Da Nang.

American officials have become alarmed over a recent rash of booby-trap and mine deaths in the region north and south of Da Nang, *AP* reported, adding that one US official estimated that "up to 60 per cent of all US combat deaths in recent weeks are from booby-traps and mines."

THE NFL and Revolutionary People's Committees of Phu Yen province made public on Nov. 15 and 22 protests against horrors committed by South Korean troops against civilians and an appeal to the inhabitants in the province to punish the criminals. The appeal read as follows:

"...On US orders and at the request of the puppet provincial authorities, the Pak Jung Hi troops of Regiment 26 (Strong Tiger) were helilifted to many districts west of Phu Yen province for sweeps from October 8 to Nov. 2, 1970. Taking advantage of the typhoons, on October 19, 1970, they rounded up civilians from Ma Tang, Ma Phuong and Ma Xin hamlets of Suoi Che village and massacred them with guns, bayonets and hand-grenades. Of the 152 villagers 3 could flee, 2 children escaped death because they were under others' bodies, 147 people were killed including 78 grown-ups (many old people, two women in childbirth and three expectant mothers) and 69 children. Whole families of eight or nine were slaughtered. Many bodies were deformed beyond identification. At Ca Lui village, six farmers returning to their fields to dig cassava roots were cut down and 7 others wounded."

NEW US AND QUISLINGS' CRIMES

- MURDER OF CIVILIANS
- TORTURES OF WOMEN
- TURNING WAR ORPHANS INTO SPIES AND BRAVOS

On November 20, the Liberation Women's Union sent to the International Federation of Democratic Women a message which read: "At My Tho prison, women inmates were stripped of all clothes and injected through their pudenda a chemical solution which hurt their nerves, sight and teeth. Then, eels were introduced into their vaginas, and pulled out only when they fainted away. Another form of torture was a kind of big worms which was put in the private parts of women prisoners tied naked to benches. The pain was such that they lost consciousness. When the creature crept out and the victims came to it was replaced by another and the atrocity was repeated many times. After a week of this treatment, the detainees' bodies and limbs were swollen and covered with scabbies; after two months, 80 per cent of women died. The purpose of this horror is to put the prisoners to a slow death or incapacitate them for life.

In My Tho province alone, 1,500 prisoners have lost their lives including 200 women and 50 children. Under each prison ward, mines have been planted to be let off in case a rebellion erupts and gets out of control."

Also on Nov.20, the Association for the Welfare of Mothers and Children in South Viet Nam exposed another crime of the US and quislings:

"At Long Thanh village, the US imperialists and their Thieu-Ky-Khiem agents have herded 2,700 waifs and strays aged from 4 to 15. Their parents having been killed in the US war of aggression, these children have been picked up from various localities and concentrated to be indoctrinated and turned into spies or young ruffians to serve US long-term aggressive purpose in South Viet Nam; some of them have been sent to the US to attend CIA courses.

These orphans, bereft of family affection and forced to become criminals, recently realized US dark design and mutinied.

Thwarted in their scheme, the US aggressors frantically cracked down on them by cutting supply of daily necessities.

On Nov.3, 1970 those children staged a hunger-strike and called on mothers in Viet Nam and in the world to support their claim for the right to live."